

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE AND BOARD ACTION

COMMITTEE: Strategic Planning

NO.: SPC 19-03

COMMITTEE DATE: October 16, 2018

BOARD DATE: October 23, 2018

APPROVAL OF QUINSIGAMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE STRATEGIC PLAN

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the **Quinsigamond Community College** 2018-2022 Institutional Strategic Plan and authorizes the Commissioner to forward the same to the Secretary of Education for final approval pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Sections 9(l) and 22(l).

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Sections 7, 9(f), 9(l) and 22(l); BHE By-Laws, Article I, Section 3(d) and Article III.

Contact: Winifred M. Hagan, Ed.D.
Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Student Success

Background

A fundamental responsibility of the BHE is to provide overall direction to the state's system of public higher education. The Board enacts this responsibility by establishing statewide goals and by regularly measuring and reporting progress toward these goals building upon the foundation of the Vision Project and Closing Gaps. Articulating statewide goals has no impact on creating greater equity in public higher education unless these goals and performance metrics are embraced by the individual colleges and universities and incorporated into their strategic plans. Massachusetts state statute therefore charges the BHE and the Secretary of Education with reviewing and approving campus strategic plans. M.G.L. c. 15A, §§9(f), 9(l) and 22(l); BHE By-Laws, Article I, Section 3(d) and Article III.

Quinsigamond Community College Planning Process

Touch Point I took place on October 6, 2017 with Commissioner Santiago on site at Quinsigamond Community College (QCC). QCC had formed a steering committee of thirteen people from different areas on campus and asked for volunteers resulting in 80 people to comprise several subcommittees. QCC planned to conduct detailed SWOT analyses within multiple focus groups and to include the external community. A campus wide forum was planned for this purpose, as was the development of an action plan that would include metrics and measures for QCC to monitor its' progress throughout the course of actualizing the strategic plan over time.

Touch Point II took place on June 12, 2018. President Pedraja provided an overview of the strategic plan and the QCC process to-date, noting that a transparent process had been created in order to engage the full community of stakeholders. It was underscored that the QCC campus strategic plan would be data driven, connected to the budget and designed to integrate BHE priorities. QCC presented the measures that were developed to indicate progress in meeting goals and objectives. President Pedraja noted that QCC was engaged with the City of Worcester, including the public-school district, in the development of their strategic plan. The SPC validated the inclusive and participatory process of the plan but asked for the final plan to include greater specificity so the campus will know when they have attained their goals. The Commissioner referenced ongoing work to revise the academic program approval process, underscoring the significance of a strategic plan that provides evidence of an array of programs that may be planned in the future.

Touch Point III: On September 12, 2018 the QCC Board of Trustees approved the strategic plan. On September 19, 2018 President Pedraja submitted the plan to Commissioner Santiago and on October 9, 2018 the plan was distributed to the Strategic Planning Committee.

STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION

Staff thoroughly reviewed all documentation submitted by Quinsigamond Community College at Touch Point II and Touch Point III. Staff recommendation is for approval of the proposed **Quinsigamond Community College Strategic Plan, 2018-2022.**